AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) With the approval of Ministry of Health during current calendar year two foreign tours were conducted by DDG(TB), one to Bangkok, Thailand and other to New York. No Expenditure was incurred by Government of India.

(b) They were official visits and none of them were courtesy tours offered by Multinational Company.

(c) They were only official visits undertaken with prior permission of the Government.

(d) Does not arise.

Identification of areas for Population Control

1461. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD:

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first meeting of the Strategic Support (Group) (SSG) was convened on 31st May, 2000 to deal with the population growth;

(b) if so, whether any thrust areas were identified in this regard; and

(c) if so, the particulars thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) This meeting focussed on the strategies that need to be adopted and the programmes of various Departments that need to be coordinated for achieving the objective of the National Population Policy, 2000.